LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ♦ March 1994

LAH Announces Spring Event:

Spring Greeting '94

The Town of Los Altos Hills is planning a special event, "*Spring Greeting '94*," to officially welcome all recent newcomers as part of an afternoon social gathering for the entire community.

Spring Greeting '94 will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 1, between 4:00pm and 6:00pm at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road. Family members of all ages are welcome.

Please mark your calendar and help our Mayor, City Council, Town Staff, Planning Commission, and volunteer Committee Members in welcoming our new neighbors, while getting to know more about your Town, seeing old friends, and making new ones.

Picture this event as a delightful Spring "Social Hour," lightly touched with champagne, garnished with fresh strawberries, and featuring tasty hors d'hoeuvres set against a background of fine string music. A few minutes will be set aside for meeting and hearing from key members of our government, and a full complement of informative Town materials will be available for browsing and for general distribution.

Spring Greeting '94 is free to all town residents who R.S.V.P in advance. We suggest that you mark your calendar now, and call in your reservation to Town Hall at 941-7222 today!

Can You Be Found . . .
. . . When You Need Help ?

Take Time Now to Make Sure!

In 1993 the Fire Department responded to 325 emergency medical calls in Los Altos Hills - nearly one each day!

But if your residence is not clearly marked, medical services can be delayed. Homes on private streets or those having long driveways are especially vulnerable. Take steps now to ensure that your house numbers are clearly marked.

"Yes, I see your caller needing emergency help...
...but I don't see a house number either!

If special directions apply, register them in advance with the Fire Department. Please do not take this advice lightly! Remember that our hills are not easily navigated at night. If someone needs help at your home, preparation today could make THE difference tomorrow!

Points of Interest:

Affordable Housing in LAH 2
Habitat for Humanity..... 2
LAH Appoints Youth Commissioner 3
Our Street Trees 4
Community Calendar 4
Meeting Our Neighbors 5
Community Services Agency 6
Westwind Barn 6

Affordable Housing in Los Altos Hills

Los Altos Hills is required by the State of California to rewrite the Housing Element of our General Plan, showing how our town will contribute its fair share of affordable housing to the community. For several years, our Council, staff and Planning Commission have been considering various possibilities. We have come to the conclusion that the best hope for affordable housing in Los Altos Hills lies in secondary dwellings. It is the only solution that is both practical and takes into account the unique characteristics of our zoning and terrain.

In 1990 the Council took a major step toward encouraging affordable housing by making it *legal* to rent out secondary units, and no longer requiring Conditional Use Permits to build them.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this action, we must identify how many housing units became available as a result of that change in our laws. A committee has been set up to document these units, and is preparing a town wide survey. OUR GOAL IS TO COUNT EVERY SECONDARY DWELLING IN TOWN, and for this the Town needs your cooperation! When your questionnaire arrives please respond without delay. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Doing so could mean the difference between Los Altos Hills maintaining local control of our housing element or having the state dictate how we will do it.

New Town Publications

Our Town has been working on two publications that are expected to be completed this Spring:

TOWN HANDBOOK. This will be sent to all LAH residents, and will supersede the first Handbook published in 1982. This booklet will be full of useful information about the Town, and will include a map of the Pathway System.

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES. This is written for persons planning to buy, build or remodel homes in our Town, as well as for their architects and designers. It is intended that this document will increase the awareness about those issues which concern the Town Planning Commission and Council when reviewing building projects.

These publications were prepared by volunteers from the City Council, Planning Commission and Town Committees.

Habitat for Humanity

Those individuals who want to make a personal contribution to affordable housing for needy people should know about the good work of Habitat for Humanity. The idea behind Habitat for Humanity is simple: find families that need housing, acquire the land, and help them build their own homes. You can help in many ways: with your donation, your building skills, materials, and time. It is most rewarding to work alongside the family that will live in the home you are building, to watch the results of your labor, and to experience the good it does.

There are two Habitat for Humanity chapters in our community. The Peninsula chapter based in Menlo Park was established in 1989. Since then it has built 8 homes in East Palo Alto. Current projects include 2 more homes in East Palo Alto and 14 homes in Pacifica. Within the next 5 years, the "Gloria Way" project will begin. This is a joint venture between Habitat for Humanity, the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, and East Palo Alto Can Do. Approximately 80 homes - 30 privately owned and 50 rentals - will be built in East Palo Alto. The Bay and Valley Habitat for Humanity is located in San Jose. They are just finishing their 7th home in Alviso and are now searching for more affordable sites in Santa Clara County to purchase. This chapter would be delighted to send a speaker to describe what they are doing to any interested group.

For more information, or to send donations, contact these offices:

Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 5493
Redwood City, Ca. 94063
(415) 324-2266

Habitat for Humanity
888 North First Street
San Jose, Ca. 95712
(408) 294-6464

LAH Appoints Youth Commissioner

A sunflower... A Sesame Street Elmo watch.. A red '73 Volkswagon Beatle. These three things may have little to do with one another, but any student at Pinewood High School could immediately identify them as junior Sarah Wilson's most valuable possessions. Indeed, Sarah is one of Pinewood's most unique and valuable students; no one can help but like her appealing personality and individual style, nor marvel at her many academic accomplishments.

And now, fortunately for Los Altos Hills, the City Council recently appointed Sarah to be its new Youth Commissioner. This position entails many duties, all of which are designed to increase community involvement with the youth of Los Altos Hills. As Sarah herself puts it, "Los Altos Hills is an affluent area, and students don't often realize that there are needy conditions and needy people in our neighboring areas." Sarah is determined to help cure these problems. Assisted by Shana Barchas, she is assembling a Youth Commission consisting of representatives from four high schools in the Los Altos Hills area. Any young people interested in participating may contact her at 948-4038. She is also glad to hear from any member of the community with questions or suggestions.

(Article courtesy of Pinewood junior Danny Rafinejad)

SOIL CONSERVATION ALERT

The Town is urging residents to avoid "discing" (the term refers to rotary blades which are tractor-mounted) whenever possible, especially on hilly slopes or within 10 feet of a road or pathway.

Discing leads to loss of soil through erosion and dust dispersion. After heavy rains, disc'd soil often washes onto roads where soil is higher than the roadway; and washes away - undermining the roadbed - when the soil is lower.

The Environmental Design and Protection Committee recommends mowing and/or "weed whacking" on slopes and near roadways to preserve topsoil when clearing your high grasses and weeds this Spring.

Inhale & Whistle

If you notice excess tailpipe belching from cars, trucks or buses while driving in the Bay Area, you may now dial 1-800-Exhaust and report the license number of the offending vehicle to the Air District. The District will notify the registered owner that the vehicle was seen emitting excessive smoke. The owner is asked to have the vehicle checked voluntarily, and fill out a return survey form.

Over 70,000 vehicles were reported during 1993 - the first year that this program has been in operation. To date, there has been a 35% response rate to the survey.

Automobiles are the leading source of Air Pollution in the Bay Area, which has nearly 4 million registered vehicles! It is increasingly important for all of us that each vehicle operates with the lowest possible emissions.

Do You Have ... Hazardous Wastes at Home?

If so, make an appointment to drop them off by calling (408) 299-7300. The next dropoff opportunity will be Saturday April 30th in Los Altos. Make your appointment well before this date. If this is not convenient, you may select June 4th in Mountain View. Remember that household hazardous wastes should *not* be placed in garbage cans. They require *special disposal treatment*. A simple call to (408) 299-7300 will answer any questions you have about these wastes.

Prevent Wildlife from Moving In With You!

If you smell something strong at night, a critter may be squatting for comfort near a warm heating duct under your home. The most common points of entry are damaged ventilation screens and roof overlap points. Wildlife also like to move in under your decks.

If you have a doggie door, be sure to keep it locked at night and when away. Santa Clara County Vector Control will help you at (800) 675-1155. (This program is paid for by a $4.34 annual assessment on all residential properties.)

Who Should Care for Our Street Trees . . .

Property Owners or the Town?

Town ordinances now place the responsibility for the care and maintenance of street trees on the abutting property owner. This policy is rooted in the belief that each of us looks after our own property and that we prefer low taxes with minimal interference from the Town.

From time to time residents have criticized the Town's policy, feeling it is unfair to those property owners with large street trees. The Town would like to hear from you because we will be reviewing our tree maintenance ordinance this spring. Contact the Town by letter (25379 Fremont Road), by FAX (941-3160), or plan on speaking when we hold our public hearing on May 4th.

Generally an owner's property extends to the center of the road right-of-way. The Town owns an easement which includes the right to use the property for trees, drainage, paths, utility lines, sewers and landscaping. Street trees are often required to be planted by the owner as part of a new development, and the Town adds about 100 street trees each year. Since the Town doesn't have the resources to care for all these trees, they become the responsibility of the property owner. However an owner cannot remove a street tree without a permit from the Town. The permit is free, but there must be a good reason to remove a living tree.

Occasionally, a street tree can become a danger to the public by protruding into the road or pathway. Ordinarily, the Town will notify the owner that work must be done. If the owner ignores the situation, or if the Town feels that the danger is great enough that the work must be done immediately, the Town may authorize the work and bill the owner. If not paid, this bill may become a lien on the property. There are a few special situations also. A utility company such as PG&E has the right to prune a street tree that interferes with its power lines. Streets which are "private" are the sole responsibility of the adjoining property owners, and the Town has no control nor responsibility.

This arrangement of dual control and responsibility between the owner and the Town will be discussed and clarified when the Council reviews the tree maintenance ordinance. We all appreciate the trees in Los Altos Hills and seek a Town policy that will maintain them safely and economically. Please let us know your thoughts on this matter.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 12	Little League Opening Day
April. 12	Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District Measure B Bond Election
April 30	Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff, Los Altos, Call (408) 299-7300
April 30, May 1	Book Sale - Hillview Community Center
April 30/May 1	Spring Fair - Hidden Villa
May 1	Spring Greeting '94, 4pm - 6pm.
May 14-15	Los Altos "MayFest" (Fine Art, Pet Parade, Pancake Breakfast, Flea Market & Crafts Fair)
June 11	Trash Cleanup Day
July 9-10	Los Altos: Art & Wine Festival
July 18 - August 12	Filing Period for LAH City Council Seats (2)
November 8	LAH City Council Election

Community Composting

Fifty-five Los Altos Hills residents who registered for the composter pilot program picked up their new composters on Saturday, January 22nd. The purpose of the pilot project is to assess the possibilities of using on-site composting for reducing our waste stream.

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A-head with Helmets

As of January 1, 1994, the California Vehicle Code requires children under the age of 18 to wear a helmet any time they are on a bicycle - as a rider or a passenger.

Throughout 1994, violators of this new Code will receive a warning. Beginning January 1, 1995, violators will be fined $25, and *their parents* will be liable for payment of the fines!

Meeting our Neighbors:

Marjorie Kellogg-Van Rheeden

Many of us have seen this well-known by-line. It has appeared in daily and weekly newspapers, as well as magazine, book and organizational publications throughout our area, and duly respects a Dutch custom where the maiden name is appended to the married. But, who lies there-behind?

Grandfather Van Rheeden emigrated from The Netherlands, settling in Illinois where Marjorie was born one of three children. Later, while working for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, Marjorie met and married Bill Kellogg. They became parents of twins Phyllis and Fred, and soon departed for two years in Holland. In 1958, the new Lockheed Missiles and Space Division of Palo Alto invited Bill to come join. Our area appealed to these re-settlers, and soon ignited Marjorie's artistic eye.

Marjorie promptly began painting and photographing local scenes and events. Designated the Town Photographer, she recorded Town meetings, parades, and special events such as the dedication of Heritage House, presented slideshows at Town Hall, and served for many years as Exhibit Curator of the City Council Chambers.

In early 1978, Marjorie was the one-woman posse who saved the silos at Pink Horse Ranch. When daughter Phyllis spotted the Horace Hill barn and silos - California State Historical Landmarks - being surreptitiously bulldozed, Marjorie rushed to Town Hall and obtained a Stop Order. It was too late to save the barn, but the silos became incorporated into the builder's master plan, and thus stand today as the only remnant of that bygone dairy farm. The Town Crier's late Editor, Tuck Shepherd, hearing of the fiasco but lacking photographic material, contacted Marjorie. She learned that Marjorie had sketched, painted and photographed this bucolic setting over the years. Sure enough, Marjorie's "before" and "after" depictions of this historical site covered the front page of Tuck's next issue.

Marjorie's feature stories, photographs, taped oral histories and artwork have captured and preserved the history of many local personalities and recorded the changes influenced by land development, weather and politics. Her published profiles of people making a difference in our community run the gamut from a Portuguese immigrant who perennially disks our lots, to a Pulitzer prize-winning author. Without doubt, her favorite subjects have been Hidden Villa and Frank Duveneck, the humanitarian/environmentalist whose impact continues to benefit our community.

Today Los Altos Hills remains as special to the Kelloggs as it has become to their three grandchildren. Bill, now semi-retired, finds time to participate in the "Gravity Probe-B" research program at Stanford University. Marjorie - with characteristic enthusiasm - provided many photos to the recent book, "*Los Altos: Portrait of a Community*," as well as local photo and art shows. Watch for her with that ubiquitous camera, and say "hello!" She is one of those special neighbors whose unique spirit helps to personalize our community.

— George Pfeiffer, Contributor

Los Altos Library Announces:

New Speaker Series: Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, our new series began on March 8 at the Los Altos Library (948-7412.) The first speaker was Connie Ewy, a docent from the De Young Museum, who presented a program on ***"The Dead Sea Scrolls"*** - an exhibit which will be on display at the Museum through May 8th.

On Wednesday, April 13th, Jon Menard will present ***"From Point Reyes to the Pinnacles - where to take a nature hike, go on a picnic, camp, or watch sunsets with family, friends or yourself."*** Mr. Menard is a popular teacher in Los Altos/Mountain View, and will have lots of ideas for Spring and Summer activities, illustrated by slides and handouts.

Future programs are being planned to include a variety of topics highlighting items of local interest. They will be held in the Community Room of the Los Altos Library beginning at 7:00pm. There is no charge. Watch for future announcements.

Art Exhibits: The work of our future artists, "High School Artists on Display," will be featured on our Gallery Wall in March. Plan to come by and enjoy their talent.

Home Access: Computer users, who have a modem, may now look up books and other materials at the Los Altos and Woodland Libraries (as well as seven other County libraries) by simply dialing a phone number which will then access the Santa Clara County Library catalog, report on availability, and take reservations. Users need have only a modem and some communication software. For further details pick up a copy of the *"Dialpac Public Access Catalog"* at the Library.

CSA Provides Support to Los Altos Hills Residents

Since 1957, Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos has been assisting local residents, helping them to remain independent and self-sufficient.

Vantrans, a paratransit program, offers low-cost rides to the handicapped and elderly who have no other means of meeting their transportation needs. Local residents have found this program particularly useful in going to medical appointments, therapy appointments and shopping.

Local seniors who are 60 years and older have enjoyed the socialization and hot weekday lunches provided by the **Senior Nutrition Program** located at the Mountain View Senior Center. Besides, having an opportunity to meet new friends, Los Altos Hills residents are able to become involved in exercise classes, bingo, dancing, line dancing and educational topics. Special holiday and ethnic celebrations are a regular part of the festivities.

Having a weekly **Senior Care Volunteer** makes it possible for frail seniors to have essential assistance in their homes. Volunteers provide help with cooking, shopping, light housekeeping and socialization. Senior Care volunteers become a special friend for many seniors who have families that live far away or that can only visit on weekends. **CSA's Senior Case Management Program** provides social workers to perform home visits and service coordination for seniors with multiple needs.

With the recent economic downturn, more Los Altos Hills residents have been utilizing **CSA's Emergency Assistance Program** services. Several residents have requested help in the following areas: financial assistance, employment assistance and information and referral. *For some, this is the first time in their lives that they have had to ask for assistance!*

CSA appreciates the generous support it receives from local residents through food and clothing donations which go directly to needy residents. Financial contributions help support CSA's programs and are gratefully appreciated.

Volunteers make it possible for CSA to effectively reach out and assist needy residents of our community. Los Altos Hills residents have volunteered many hours of their time to assist in CSA's Santa Claus Exchange, Community Kitchen, Alpha Omega Shelter, and Food and Clothes Closet programs. In addition, CSA is proud to include several of our residents on its Board of Directors: Donna Bartelink, Edwina Comiso, Helen Helson, David Jury, Judy Marcus and Olive O'Hara. David Jury and Helen Helson also serve on CSA's Executive Committee.

For additional information about CSA's programs, please call (415) 968-0836. To become a volunteer, please call (415) 964-4630.

Westwind Barn Rolls Out the Turf

Westwind Barn on Altamont Road is a unique equestrian facility with a rich history dating back to the 1940's. This facility, owned by the Town and leased to Westwind, has 34 stalls for rent with priority afforded to residents of Los Altos Hills. Equestrians who board their horses elsewhere but wish to use the riding areas and facilities may become a 'Facility User' for a nominal fee of $25 annually plus $10/ month of use. This should become a very attractive alternative in the future, as Westwind has commenced expansion plans which include a large, all-weather arena featuring excellent 'footing.'

Westwind and the adjoining Byrne Preserve are available for use by horsemen, hikers, bicycle riders and general visitors. Westwind has a fenced picnic area with tables - perfect for informal gatherings and a great setting for a child's birthday party! Tours of the barn for youth groups, such as Pre-schoolers, Kindergarten classes, Cub Scouts and Brownies, are available and welcome. For further information regarding what Westwind can offer you and your family, including becoming a 'Facility User,' please call Barn Manager Kelly Douglas at (415) 941-6113.

Westwind Barn is also home to the "4-H Riding for the Handicapped" program, which serves children with special needs. In the hands of qualified assistants, horses seem to have a special sensitivity for children who are physically handicapped. To support this program, to become a volunteer assistant or for additional information please call Nancy Couperus at (415) 941-4808.

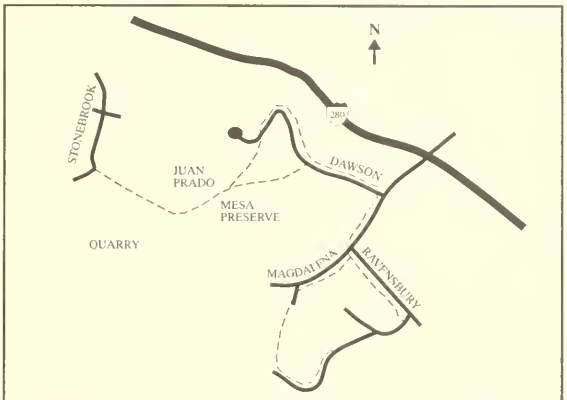
Did You Know?

The action taken by the State of California last year to balance its budget added another $47,000 to the $96,900 annual revenue reductions previously taken from Los Altos Hills between 1982 and 1993. The total annual LOSS from these State actions now totals $143,900.

Town Celebrates Pathways Day

On October 3, 1993, approximately 80 residents came out for three walks that were jointly organized by the Pathways, Parks and Recreation Committee and the Community Relations Committee. Participants selected from among three loop tours departing at staggered times: an early morning walk through Byrne Preserve, a late morning walk from Stonebrook Drive through the Quarry area and Juan Prado Mesa Preserve, then up the newly constructed Fernhill Trail (see sketch), and an afternoon circuit on trails near Town Hall. With delightful weather, participants young through old - including four-leggers on leashes - all enjoyed themselves greatly.

Pathway Co-chair Carol Gottlieb observed that "This annual event is an important high point of our public pathway program, helping to acquaint residents with this extraordinary resource. The 1994 event is scheduled for early October. Watch for announcements, and come join us!



Stonebrook - Juan Prado Preserve - Fernhill Walk

[*Please Note*: The Town has recently completed an off-road path down Stonebrook so residents can safely walk - away from trucks hauling dirt to the Quarry. This hauling will be completed in the near future.]

Adoption Report

In the last Newsletter, we announced a new, volunteer "Roadway Adoption" Program, providing a fun way to make litter disappear. We are glad to report that many public-spirited residents are taking on the task. Some have already registered, including:

Darin & Lauren Burnell	*Black Mountain Road.*
Rod Carlson	*Page Mill Road — Altamont to Palo Alto Foothills Park.*
Alan and Betty Dale	*La Loma Drive and Prospect.*
Donna Leanheart	*Page Mill Road — Fawn Creek to Arastradero.*
Diane Madgic	*Arastradero — Deer Creek to West Fremont including the Bike Path.*
Bill Siegel	*Stonebrook — Prospect to El Monte.*

We realize that many more residents informally participate in this kind of community care-taking, and we thank you for doing so. Everybody benefits from all such efforts, which are greatly appreciated.

It has been suggested that people might be more willing to participate if a sanitary "pick-up kit" was made available. Accordingly, by the time that you read this issue, both blue plastic bags and gloves will be available at Town Hall for your use. After fill-up, the plastic bags may be left by your garbage cans for courtesy pick-up by the Los Altos Garbage Company.

Many of us enjoy walking along our charm-filled streets. Why not join in with a small plastic bag and pick up any litter you see? It will surely double your pleasure. In fact, why not register your road, and let us add your name to our next list?

— Your Environmental Design & Protection Committee

Some SAFETY Tips:

1. Take simple fire precautions. Stock household extinguishers in prominant locations. Have them be easy to reach, inspect or test them regularly, and run family drills. On your chimney, spark arrestors are REQUIRED and offer a PROVEN means of protection.

2. Neighborhood Crime Watch programs WORK! Call Town Hall and learn how to organize your immediate area.

3. Our Emergency Neighborhood Coordinating Network needs your help. Contribute two hours per month to help ensure that we all know exactly what to do if a local disaster strikes. Call Town Hall to participate.

— Your Safety Committee

About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published in March and September with assistance from members of our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Roger W. Burnell

Residents' Reply Card

All members of the Los Altos Hills community are encouraged to communicate with and participate in our local government. Please use this card to communicate with us:

Please check below to receive information or a call about the opportunity to participate in our Town (an asterick indicates a current opening)?

1. Volunteer Committees:
   __ Community Relations (*) __ Finance
   __ Pathways, Recreation & Parks (*) __ Safety
   __ Environmental Design & Protection

2. Volunteer Appointments:
   __ Citizen's Advisory Committee __ Exhibit Curator
   __ Joint Volunteer Awards (*) __ Youth Commissioner
   __ Los Altos Senior Coordinating Council

3. What topics would you like to see covered in future issues of the Town Newsletter?
   _____

4. Please give us feedback on the topics of

Town Trees: _____

Secondary Dwellings: _____

5. Do you have any questions or helpful comments?
   _____

We thank you very much !

Name: _____ **Address:** _____ **Phone:** _____

[Please cut out this form along the dotted line, and return to Town Hall: 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022]

The Business of Business Licenses

All persons and organizations conducting business within the Town of Los Altos Hills are required to obtain a Business License. Business Licenses serve several purposes. They provide information to Town Hall about people working within our boundaries, and raise revenue for the Town operations from those who earn part or all of their livelihood in our Town. You can help by making sure that any service provider shows you a current Town of Los Altos Hills Business License.

All businesses are required obtain a license, including: Contractors, Subcontractors; Realtors; Real Estate Appraisers; Architects, Engineers and Planners, Landscape Architects and Designers; Gardeners, Appliance Repairmen, Pest Control and Pool Cleaning Services; Home Occupations; Recreational Facilities; and Private Schools or Board and Care Facilities. Fees range from $50 to $250. A detailed fee schedule is available at Town Hall.

If you will be *conducting* any business within the Town at any time this year (regardless of whether or not you maintain a business *office* in the Town), please obtain and complete a Town Business License application and mail it, along with your check, to Town Hall.

Los Altos Hills City Council

• Bob Johnson, *Mayor* •
• Elayne Dauber, *Mayor Pro Tem* •
• Sid Hubbard • Bill Siegel • Barbara Tryon •

Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

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